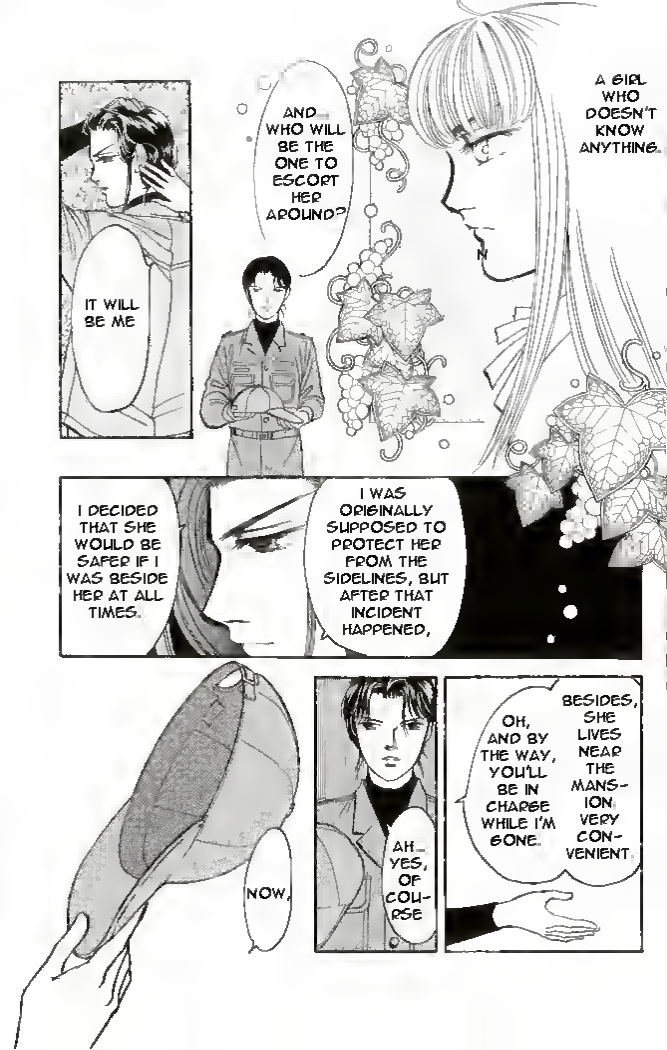
[MESSAGE FROM NUMBER_NINE]

ENJOY!

:)

HAS THE ENEMY MADE A MOVE YET?
AND HOW IS THE PHYSICAL STATE OF THE MANSION'S OWNER?
THE OWNER HAS BEEN IN A COMA FOR SO LONG,
AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN HIS STATE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL IF HE'LL EVER WAKE UP EVER AGAIN
I SEE
I WON'T BE ABLE TO ASK HIM ANY QUESTIONS
WE'LL HAVE TO SPEED THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT AND ALSO FIND ANOTHER WAY.

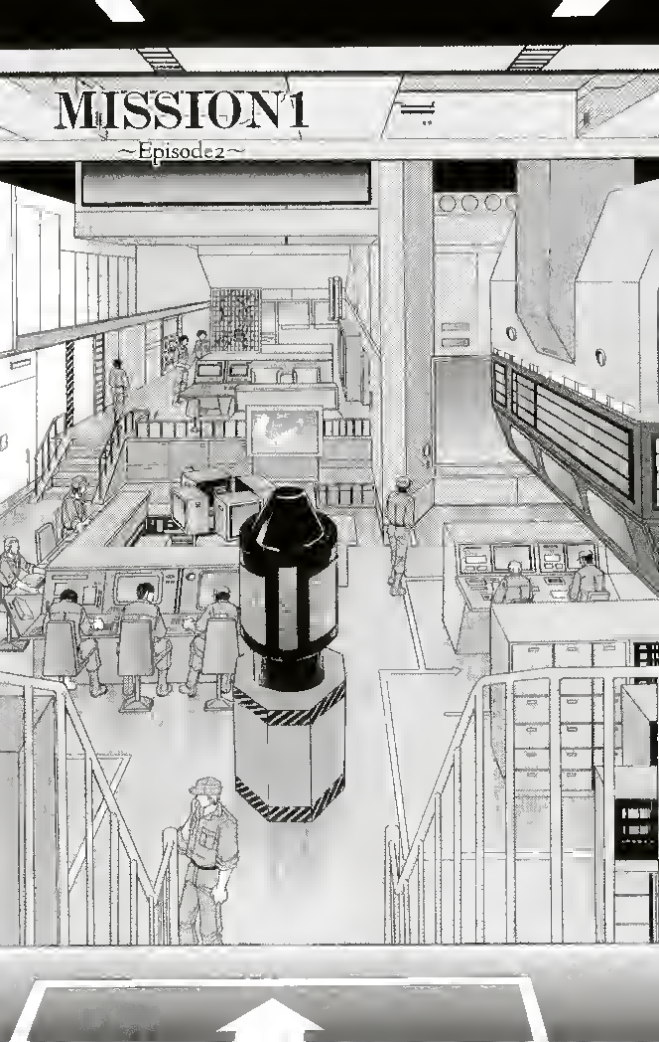
HE WANTS US TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM HER BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT HER TO THINK BADLY OF HIM.
WE MUST RESPECT HIS WISHES
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HINDER THE MISSION.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT TO THE GIRL?
AN OLD MAN'S WISHES INTRUSTED TO US,
AND,
AN OLD EUROPEAN-STYLE BUILDING THAT WAS LEFT BEHIND THE TIMES,
RIGHT —

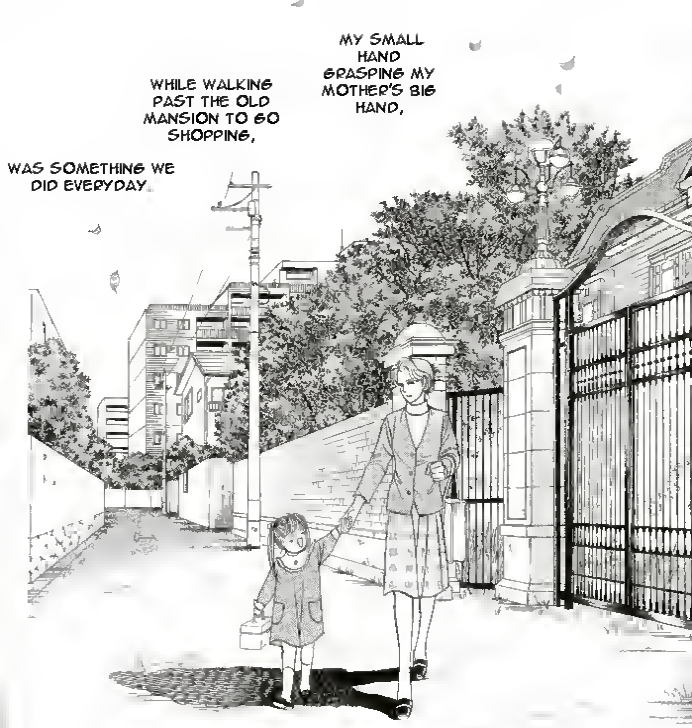

A GIRL WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
AND... WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO ESCORT HER AROUND?
IT WILL BE ME
I WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HER FROM THE SIDELINES, BUT AFTER THAT INCIDENT HAPPENED,
I DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD BE SAFER IF I WAS BESIDE HER AT ALL TIMES.
BESIDES, SHE LIVES NEAR THE MANSION. VERY CONVENIENT.
OH, AND BY THE WAY, YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE WHILE I'M GONE.
AH... YES, OF COURSE
NOW,

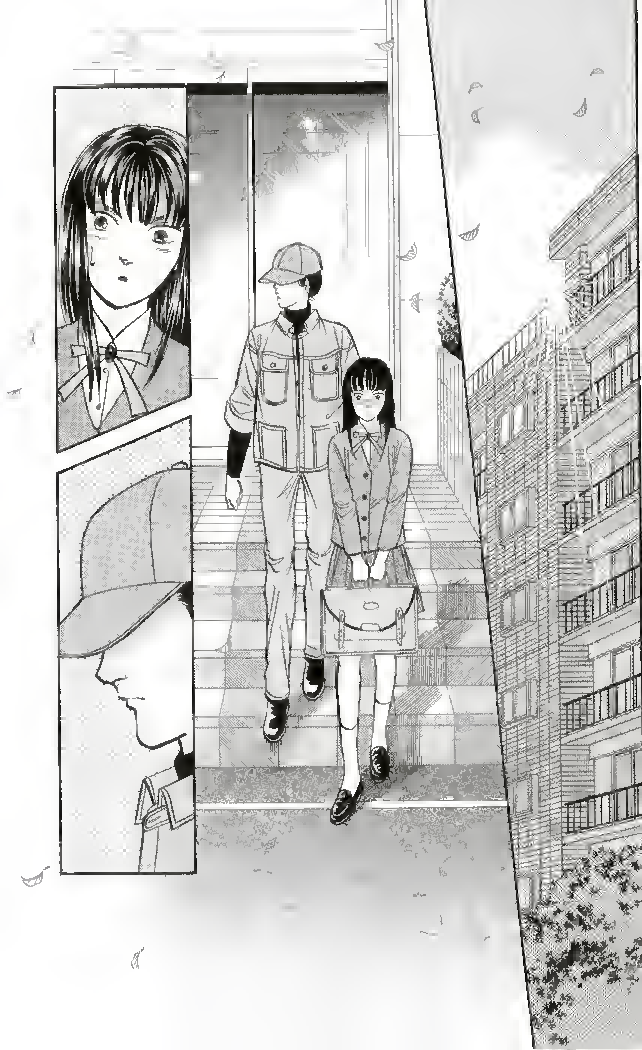
I'M OFF.

MISSION1

~Episode2~

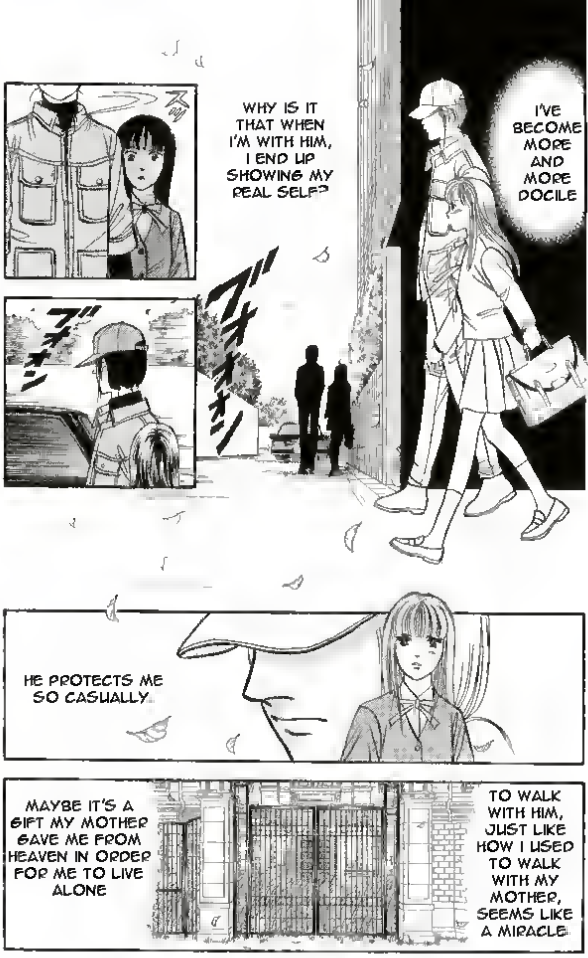



MY SMALL HAND GRASPING MY MOTHER'S BIG HAND,
WHILE WALKING PAST THE OLD MANSION TO GO SHOPPING,
WAS SOMETHING WE DID EVERYDAY.
HOWEVER, THAT LOVING HAND IS GONE, FOREVER,
AND I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO,
OTHER THAN CHERISH THOSE MEMORIES FOREVER.



I DON'T MIND
YOU DONT NEED TO USE YOUR ENERGY TO WALK ME TO SCHOOL... UMM...
U-UM, EXCUSE ME... BUT... I'M FINE...
HE MIGHT COME BACK AND AMBUSH YOU FOR REVENGE.
THE GUY FROM YESTERDAY WAS HURT PRETTY BADLY.
I HAVE THINGS TO DO IN THAT DIREC-TION.
WE CAN ARRA-NGE SOME THING ELSE
UNLESS YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME PICKING YOU UP FROM SCHOOL
IT'S OKAY!
SO I'VE BEEN THINKING... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ME PICKING YOU UP AND DROPPING YOU OFF EVERY DAY?

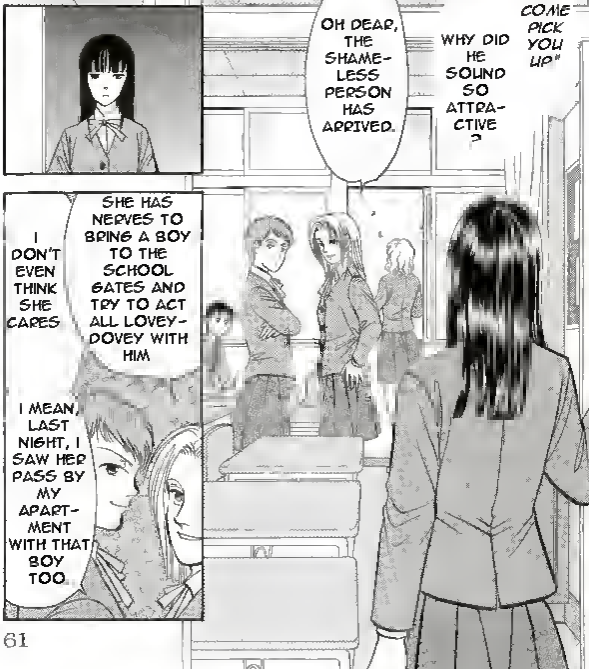
IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOME COMPANY...
UM... I MEAN...
I GUESS IT'S BEEN SETTLED THEN.
I'M REALLY HAPPY!
I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS!!!
I... I'M...
NO WAY...
Y-YES!!!
A... AH...
BYE
I'M STARTING TO HOPE FOR MORE...
THIS KIND OF THING CAN'T REALLY BE HAPPENING...


I'VE BECOME MORE AND MORE DOCILE
WHY IS IT THAT WHEN I'M WITH HIM, I END UP SHOWING MY REAL SELF?
ブォォォン
ブォォォン
HE PROTECTS ME SO CASUALLY
MAYBE IT'S A GIFT MY MOTHER GAVE ME FROM HEAVEN IN ORDER FOR ME TO LIVE ALONE
TO WALK WITH HIM, JUST LIKE HOW I USED TO WALK WITH MY MOTHER, SEEMS LIKE A MIRACLE

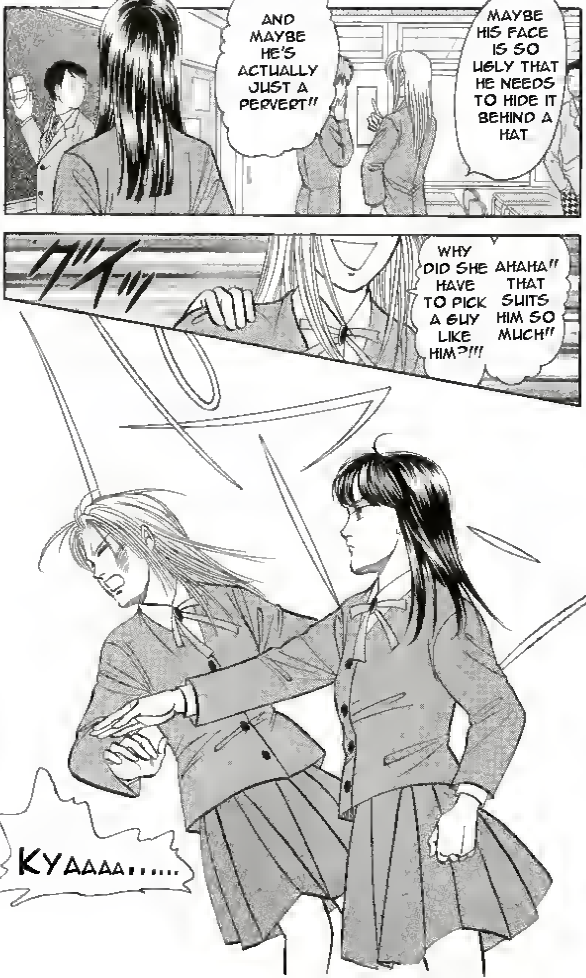
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A SECOND LONGER
IF THIS IS A DREAM, PLEASE DON'T WAKE ME UP

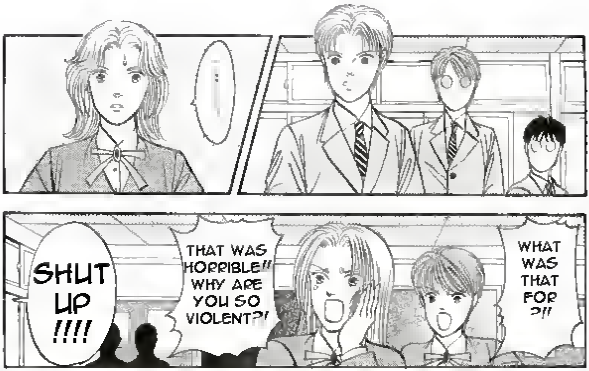
LIST-EN,
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP WHEN YOUR SCHOOL ENDS
OKAY!
STAY IN CROWDED AREAS.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AT SCHOOL
I UNDERSTAND.

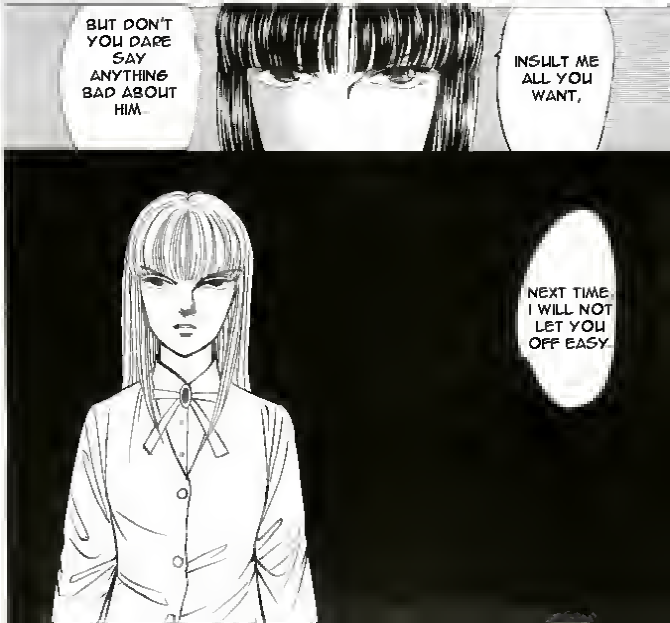
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT HIM WORRYING ABOUT ME MAKES ME FEEL SO HAPPY.
THOUGH, I THINK HE'S WORRYING A BIT TOO MUCH.

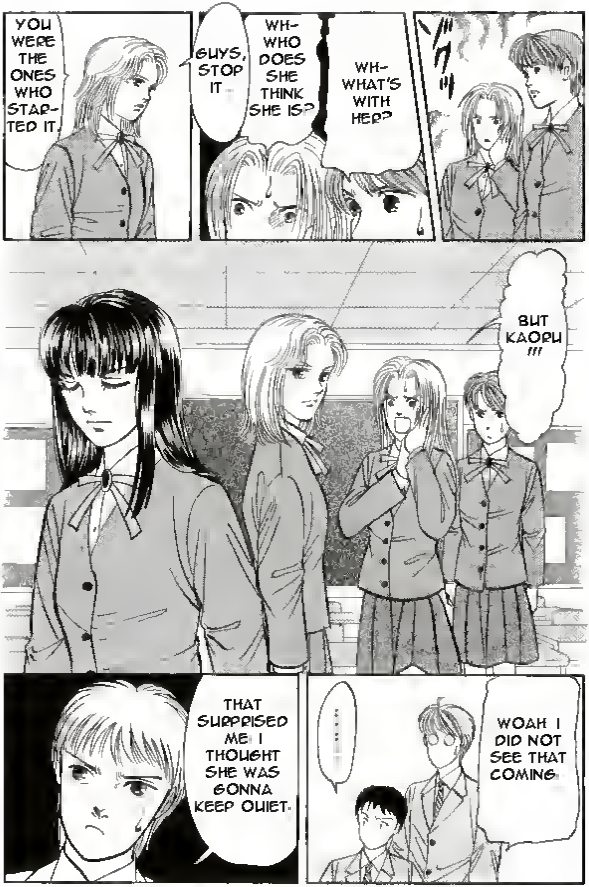

"I'LL COME PICK YOU UP"
WHY DID HE SOUND SO ATTRACTIVE?
OH DEAR, THE SHAMELESS PERSON HAS ARRIVED.
SHE HAS NERVES TO BRING A BOY TO THE SCHOOL GATES AND TRY TO ACT ALL LOVEY-DOVEY WITH HIM
I DON'T EVEN THINK SHE CARES
I MEAN, LAST NIGHT, I SAW HER PASS BY MY APARTMENT WITH THAT BOY TOO.

IT MUST BE NICE TO LIVE ALONE!
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
DAISUKE, SHOULD WE LEAVE THEM ALONE?
AHAHA! SHUT UP! SHE MIGHT START TO GET WEIRD IDEAS!!
AHAHAHAHH !!!!! EWWW !! NOT THAT !!
STILL, DID YOU SEE HIM?!
I SAW! I SAW!
HE WAS WEARING THIS WEIRD HAT!

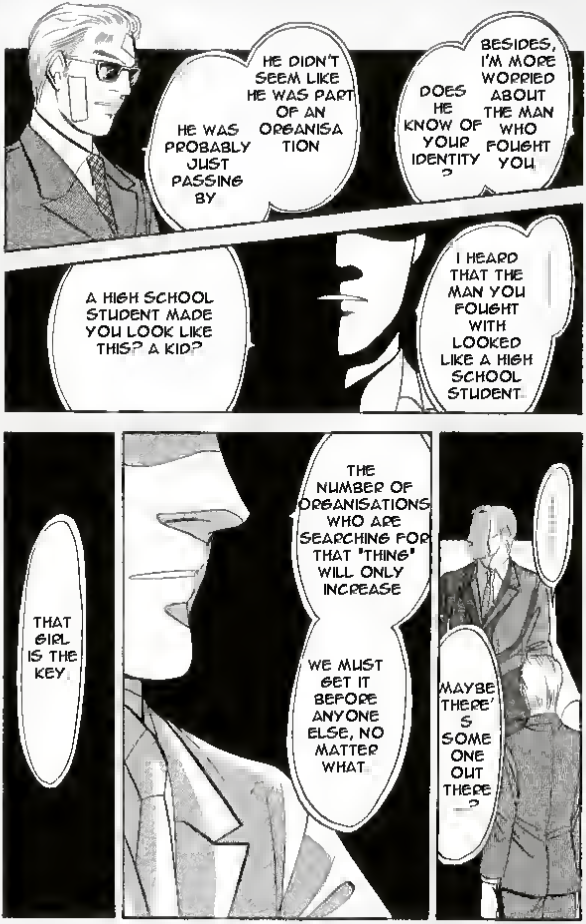

MAYBE HIS FACE IS SO UGLY THAT HE NEEDS TO HIDE IT BEHIND A HAT
AND MAYBE HE'S ACTUALLY JUST A PERVERT!!
AHAHA!! THAT SUITS HIM SO MUCH!!
WHY DID SHE HAVE TO PICK A GUY LIKE HIM?!!!
KYAAAA.....

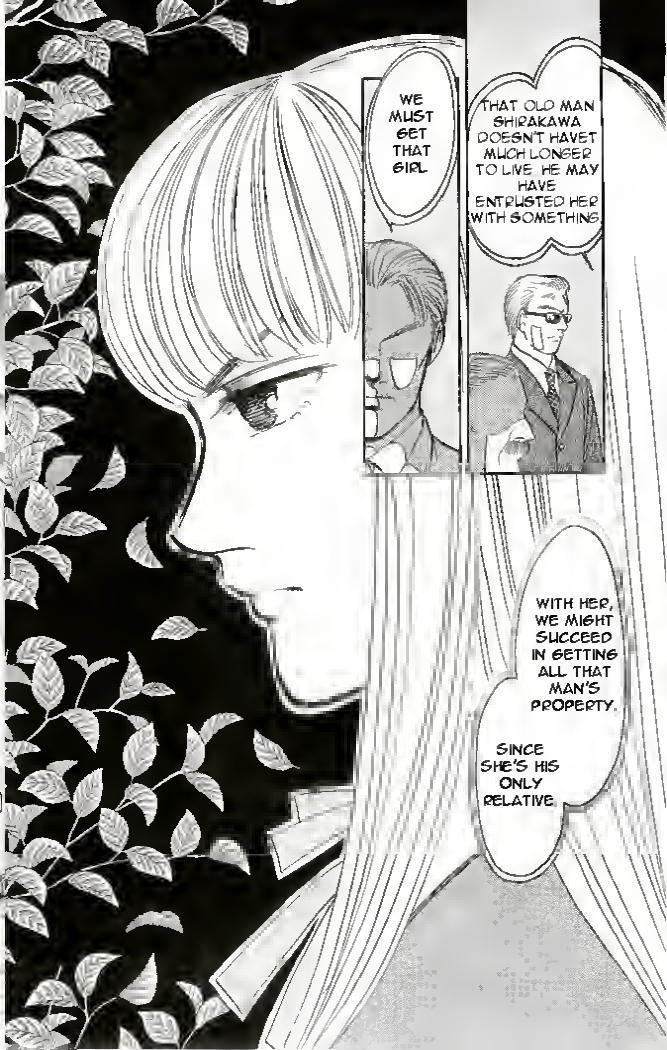

SHUT UP !!!!
THAT WAS HORRIBLE!! WHY ARE YOU SO VIOLENT?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR ?!!


BUT DON'T YOU DARE SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT HIM.
INSULT ME ALL YOU WANT,
NEXT TIME I WILL NOT LET YOU OFF EASY.

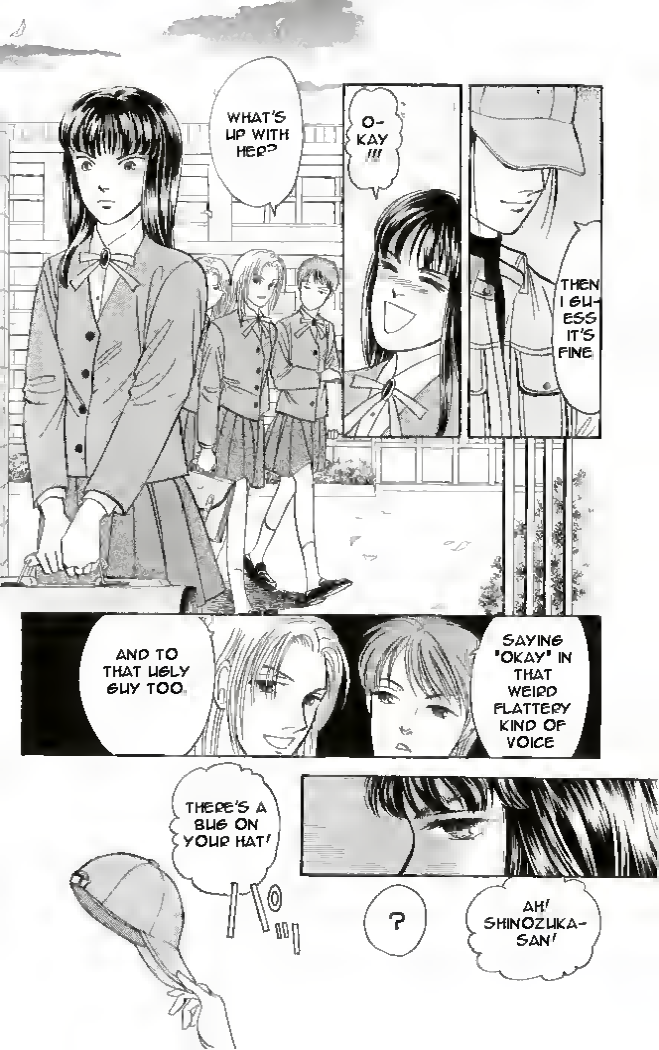

YOU WERE THE ONES WHO STARTED IT.
GUYS, STOP IT.
WH-WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
WH-WHAT'S WITH HER?
BUT KAORU!!!
THAT SURPRISED ME. I THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA KEEP QUIET.
WOAH I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING.

SHE WAS SO SERIOUS, IT SCARED ME.
DID YOU FIND IT YET?
THAT
I LOOKED IN EVERY CORNER OF THE MANSION
BUT
HM
THERE'S NO SURPRISE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND.
IT'S BEEN HIDDEN SINCE THE END OF WWII. MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY.


HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS PART OF AN ORGANISATION
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST PASSING BY
BESIDES, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE MAN WHO FOUGHT YOU
DOES HE KNOW OF YOUR IDENTITY?
I HEARD THAT THE MAN YOU FOUGHT WITH LOOKED LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MADE YOU LOOK LIKE THIS? A KID?
THE NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS WHO ARE SEARCHING FOR THAT "THING" WILL ONLY INCREASE
WE MUST GET IT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE, NO MATTER WHAT
THAT GIRL IS THE KEY
MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE...?


WE MUST GET THAT GIRL
THAT OLD MAN SHIRAKAWA DOESN'T HAVE T MUCH LONGER TO LIVE. HE MAY HAVE ENTRUSTED HER WITH SOMETHING.
WITH HER, WE MIGHT SUCCEED IN GETTING ALL THAT MAN'S PROPERTY.
SINCE SHE'S HIS ONLY RELATIVE.

SORRY! DID I MAKE YOU WAIT FOR LONG?
NAH
BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT MAYBE MEETING HERE ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE STARING AT US
D-OES IT BO-THER YOU?
NOT ME— I MEAN YOU—
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'M FINE!!

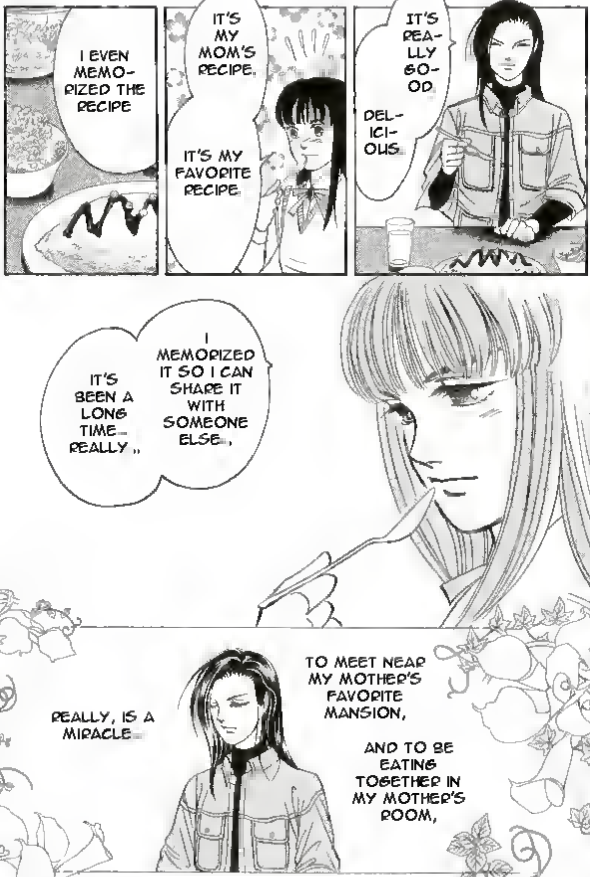

WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
O-KAY !!!
THEN I GUESS IT'S FINE
AND TO THAT UGLY GUY TOO
SAYING "OKAY" IN THAT WEIRD FLATTERY KIND OF VOICE
THERE'S A BUG ON YOUR HAT!
?
AH! SHINOZUKA-SAN!

ヤラ
ヤラ
ヤラ

A BUG?
AH! MY BAD! IT WASN'T A BUG
IT WAS JUST A LEAF. SORRY!
WHO WAS THE ONE THAT SAID HE WAS UGLY?
NO WAY... IS THAT PERSON REALLY HER BOYFRIEND?

HEY!
WOAH! DAISUKE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT GUY!
THERE WERE SEVERAL LISTENING DEVICES IN EACH ROOM.
I HAVE REMOVED THEM ALL

IF POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE BEST TO GET ICHINOMIYA SAYA OUT OF THE APARTMENT
SHE WON'T WANT TO LEAVE SINCE SHE USED TO LIVE HERE WITH HER PARENTS
SHE ALSO WON'T WANT TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF THE REMAINING MEMORIES OF HER MOTHER
CHECK THE APART-MENT'S SECUR-ITY
SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT! THE FOOD IS READY!
THE FO-OD?
ピポン
I KNOW I WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO SERVE TEA...
BUT IF YOU HAVE TIME, I'D LIKE IT IF YOU TRIED SOME OF MY COOKING...
I NEVER REALLY GET TO SHARE IT...


I EVEN MEMORIZED THE RECIPE
IT'S MY MOM'S RECIPE.
IT'S MY FAVORITE RECIPE.
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
DELICIOUS.
I MEMORIZED IT SO I CAN SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... REALLY...
REALLY, IS A MIRACLE...
TO MEET NEAR MY MOTHER'S FAVORITE MANSION,
AND TO BE EATING TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S ROOM,

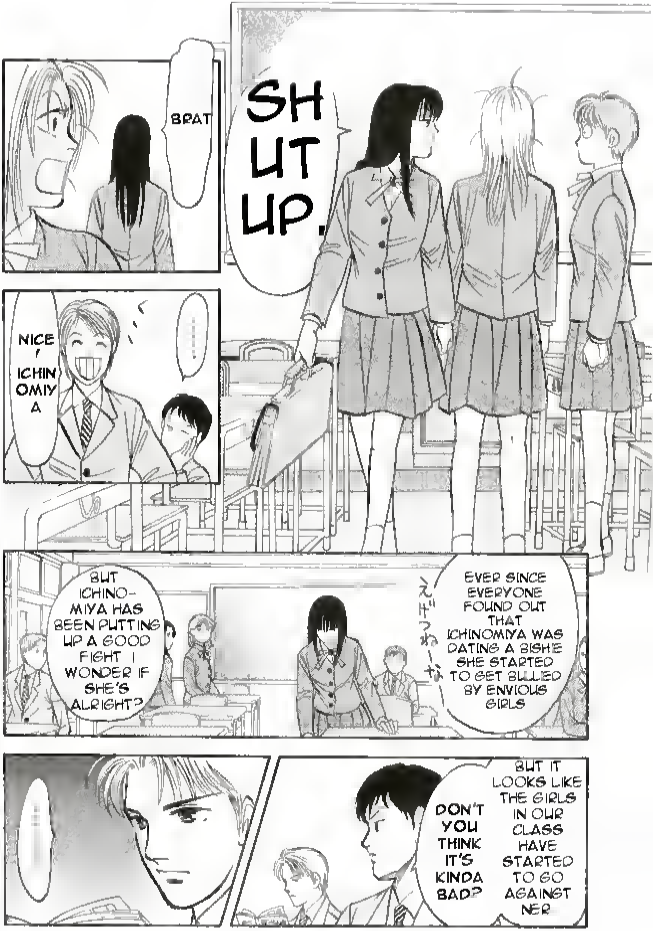
IT'S A BIT SCARY HOW I ATTAINED SO MUCH HAPPINESS IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
OH, THE PHONE. IT'S PROBABLY MY FATHER
HE CALLS FROM TIME TO TIME
ICHINOMIYA, SAYA
HELLO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AND WHO ARE YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?
DON'T PLAY DUMB! WE KNOW YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS!
HIDE WHAT?
WHERE DID YOU HIDE IT?
AH

DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM HER?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU LOST, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT TO TALK, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK TO ME.
AND KNOW THAT, IF YOU LAY EVEN A FINGER ON HER,
I'LL HAVE NO MERCY ON YOU, WHEN I FIND YOU.
カサ
チャ
IT WAS JUST A PRANK CALL.
NOTHING SERIOUS.

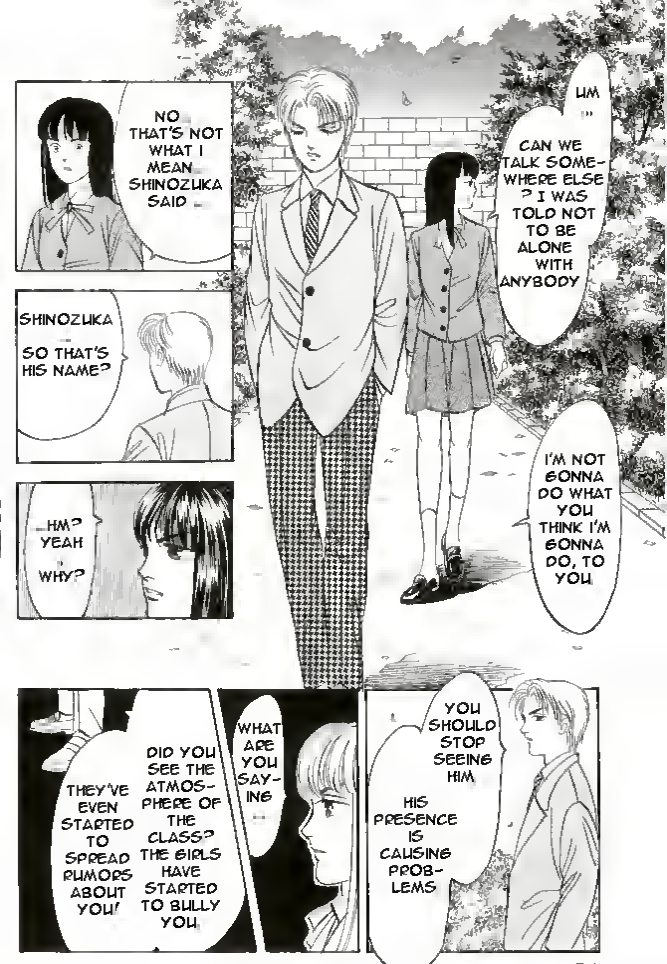
ICHINO MIYA-SAN?

I WAS SO LONELY...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SO LONG...
FOR SOMEONE TO CHERISH ME...
AND I HATED IT SO MUCH
BEING LONELY...
SHINOZUKA... I LOVE YOU...
SEE YOU TO-MOR-ROW!
BYE!
AND TRY TO AVOID ANSW-ERING THE DOOR.
NOW, GO TO YOUR ROOM AND HANG YOUR KEYS.
OK.
AH... YES, I'M SORRY FOR CRYING SO SUDDEN-LY
TH-ANK YOU FOR THE FO-OD.
ARE YOU FEE-LING BET-TER?

-C
I-C
YOU'RE JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT! WHAT KIND OF PLACES DO YOU GO TO PICK UP THOSE KIND OF GUYS?
YOU'RE A MAN-EATER!!
HE DROPPED YOU OFF AGAIN? ICHINOMIYA, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT TYPE OF PERSON!
KYAHAHAHA
EW! DON'T SAY THAT!


BRAT
SHUT UP.
NICE / ICHINOMIYA
.....
EVER SINCE EVERYONE FOUND OUT THAT ICHINOMIYA WAS DATING A BISHE SHE STARTED TO GET BULLIED BY ENVIOUS GIRLS
えげつねーな
BUT ICHINOMIYA HAS BEEN PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT I WONDER IF SHE'S ALRIGHT?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS HAVE STARTED TO GO AGAINST HER
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KINDA BAD?

I'M STARVING!
FOOD !! FOOD !!
DAISUKE, LET'S GO EAT
YOU GUYS GO WITH OUT ME
ICHINOMIYA-SAN WE NEED TO TALK
I GUESS DAISUKE STILL LIKES HER AFTER ALL
KAORU !!!
WHAT IS WITH THAT GIRL? DOESN'T SHE ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND?


NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN SHINOZUKA SAID
UM ... CAN WE TALK SOMEWHERE ELSE? I WAS TOLD NOT TO BE ALONE WITH ANYBODY
SHINOZUKA ... SO THAT'S HIS NAME?
I'M NOT GONNA DO WHAT YOU THINK I'M GONNA DO, TO YOU
...HM? YEAH WHY?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...
DID YOU SEE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CLASS? THE GIRLS HAVE STARTED TO BULLY YOU
THEY'VE EVEN STARTED TO SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT YOU!
YOU SHOULD STOP SEEING HIM
HIS PRESENCE IS CAUSING PROBLEMS

I'M GLAD YOU'RE CONCERNED BUT I DON'T REALLY NEED IT
ARE YOU STUPID?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT THE OTHERS SAY ABOUT ME
YOU'VE CHANGED
YOU WERE SO NICE BACK THEN
AND THEY'LL GET TIRED OF IT EVENTUALLY
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!!!
YOU DO-N'T

ICHI-NOM-IYA !!
I HATE YOU!!
DAMN IT... I MESSED UP.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE ME!!!
UNLIKE ME, YOU GREW UP IN A PEACEFUL HOME!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND THE KIND OF CRAP THAT WENT DOWN IN MY FAMILY!
ドド

OH, ICHINOMIYA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AND ON THE GROUND, TOO.
I BET SHE GETS EXCITED TO GO TO BED AT NIGHT.
HA WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO SHE CAN EAT MEN LIKE THE MAN-EATER SHE IS!! DUH!
KYAHAHA
THEY...
HEY, ISN'T THAT ICHINOMIYA AND HER FRIENDS?
WHAT HAPPENED?
ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT BE ANY MUCH OF HELP, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ASSISSTANCE?

あの人を知った日から
すべての景色が変わった
風は花の匂いを運び 木々は緑を増し
雨音さえ曲を奏でる

孤独から救ってくれた人
ひとりで立っていなくてもいいんだと
教えてくれた人

世界のすべては
あの人だけの色になり
初めての想いに
私の心は空を舞い続ける

その裏側に
張り裂けるような悲しみが
隠れているとも知らずに